

# Fewer Teens Using Tobacco in 2002

## Teen tobacco use is declining

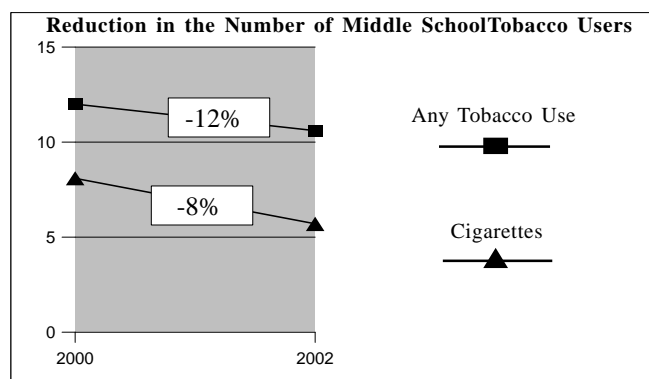
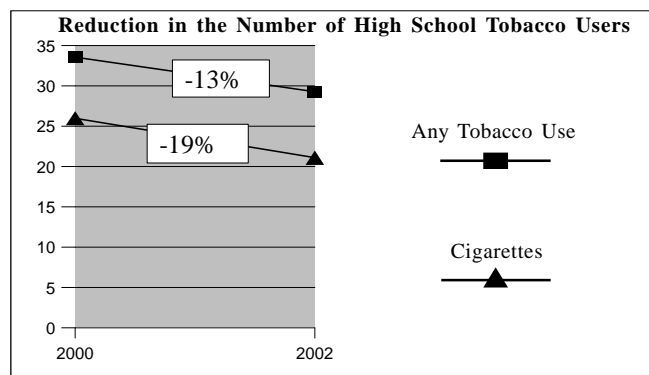
Between 2000 and 2002, the number of kids who use tobacco in Kansas declined by 12% among 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 13% among 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders. **This represents 4,400 fewer kids using tobacco.** This decline includes a 19% decrease in the number of 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders who smoke cigarettes and an 8% decrease in the number of 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders who smoke cigarettes, indicating early success of the Kansas Tobacco Use Prevention Program and its partners. TASK, a statewide youth movement, was created to promote tobacco free teens by uniting communities to create one strong voice standing against the promotion and use of tobacco products. Initially formed in 1998 as a part of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, TASK has evolved into an active entity heavily involved with the prevention of Kansas teen tobacco use. Also contributing to the decline in tobacco use was the \$.55 cigarette excise tax increase seen in Kansas in 2002/2003.

## Measuring success

The Kansas Youth Tobacco Survey (KYTS) was conducted in 2000 to provide baseline data and again in 2002 to track changes in youth tobacco use attitudes and behaviors. The survey was administered in randomly sampled middle schools and high schools across Kansas. The KYTS is part of a national effort to obtain data on youth knowledge, behaviors and attitudes toward tobacco. The Kansas results have been reviewed and validated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

## Key results

- 29% reduction in the number of high school seniors who smoke cigarettes
- 12% decline in the number of 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have ever tried smoking cigarettes
- 21% reduction in the number of 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders who smoke 5 or more cigarettes per day



## Fewer minors are buying cigarettes.

There was a 29% decrease in the number of minors who reported purchasing cigarettes in a store between 2000 and 2002.

